

January 9, 2006
Recess/Workshop

Minutes

Members present

Brady Wooten- Chairman
Allen Sneed- Vice- Chairman
Leon Casstevens- Commissioner
Kim Clark Phillips- Commissioner
D.C. Swaim- Commissioner

Others Present

Cecil E. Wood- County Manager
Melinda Vestal-Clerk to the Board

Chairman Wooten called the recess meeting back to order and stated this would be a planning session. No actions will be taken by the Board during this time.

Board of Education

Karin Mendenhall, Chair, Board of Education, presented a five year facilities plan as required by the N.C. Public Schools Department in Raleigh. The report shows current enrollment and expected growth. This report helps determine the facility needs for the schools. The Board of Education has prioritized the building of two middle schools as their number one priority with estimates of \$20 million each. The Board of Education requests the Board of Commissioners acknowledge the report by signing the required paperwork.

The Board discussed the growth in the county and the potential middle schools.

Ms. Mendenhall stated the middle schools would be built adjacent to the high schools. The land has already been purchased.

Health Department

April Pardue, Healthy Carolinians Coordinator, presented a resolution to make school campuses tobacco free.

The Board discussed the pros and cons and how this policy could be enforced.

Ms. Mendenhall stated the Board of Education had reviewed and discussed the resolution. They surveyed school employees which indicated a favorable acceptance of the proposed no tobacco policy. Ms Mendenhall stated they too are concerned with the enforcement of the policy.

Ms. Pardue stated the policy could be done in phases to make the transition somewhat easier. She stated signs are being provided by the State.

Ms. Pardue asked the Board of Commissioners to review and consider the adoption of the resolution.

Commissioners-planning

Mr. Wood handed out vision and mission statements from other counties to give the Board some ideas.

Chairman Wooten stated he feels the top priorities are infrastructure (water/sewer) in key locations and schools. He commented planning and zoning should be another top issue.

Commissioner Casstevens inquired about the water projects.

Mr. Wood stated the Hwy 601 project is moving along well. DOT has an issue with a property owner regarding the price of the land. The loan for the I-77/Hwy 21 project is looking very promising. We should get a definite response in June or July. Mr. Wood asked if the Board wanted to offer incentives to the property owners along Hwy 21 regarding r-o-ws. Also we need to get the fire department and the school on board to help promote the project.

Commissioner Phillips stated the county has huge needs with large costs; where do we get the money?

Mr. Wood stated the list is good; infrastructure- businesses and jobs. We need to ask ourselves how the public perceives the county. Mr. Wood stated

Yadkin County is not being taken seriously. We need to work on the county's public image.

Chairman Wooten stated we need to focus on the key issues and suggested bringing the Economic Council on board.

Commissioner Phillips stated we need a long term goals with a formal approach.

Chairman Wooten stated we need to focus on the short-term, and then broaden the focus on other projects.

Mr. Wood reviewed some of the costs for the projects: schools \$70 million, water \$3-\$5 million, sewer \$4-\$5 million, 5D \$5 million, park \$250,000. Yadkin County needs \$100 million to fulfill the needs of the county and the current tax base will not generate that amount.

Chairman Wooten discussed a county-wide water plan and asked how could the county implement the plan?

Commissioner Casstevens stated getting water and sewer to I-77/Hwy 421 will have an impact on the county.

Mr. Wood commented counties around us have grown tremendously. They have developed industrial parks with buildings. Yadkin County has nothing to offer; we have got to make ourselves competitive.

Chairman Wooten stated the county has a good Land Use Plan.

Mr. Wood stated the county has to entice people to come here and currently we are not doing that.

Chairman Wooten stated the Hwy 601 project and water to I-77 shows positive action by the county.

Commissioner Casstevens stated he spoke with someone who wants to put a hotel at I-77/Hwy 421.

Commissioner Sneed stated water will go to Lydall and Blue Rhino.

Mr. Wood stated we need to be friendly to the developers, but we do not want to run off the farmers. Mr. Wood stated the county needs to work on local support from existing businesses. If the county is going to be progressive, then it must be generated by this Board. He commented if we say no to Wal-Mart what are we portraying; anti-development, anti-change.

Chairman Wooten stated we need to work on retaining businesses and expand on them.

Mr. Wood stated we need to reach out to the existing business; show them support.

Chairman Wooten stated the county needs the support of the community.

The Board discussed residential and industrial sites.

Chairman Wooten stated if there are community meetings, the entire Board needs to attend.

Mr. Wood discussed the waterlines to Boonville and the potential growth in that area.

Chairman Wooten asked how David Long could assist the county?

Commissioner Phillips stated the county has a lot of issues and Mr. Long can move us ahead in the projects by breaking them down into specifics areas that we can concentrate on.

Mr. Wood asked what do we want people to see when they look at Yadkin County?

Commissioner Casstevens stated progressive.

Chairman Wooten stated a great place to live, good schools.

Commissioner Phillips commented great agriculture areas; Yadkin County is a beautiful county.

Mr. Wood stated there are several things to look at when you say a great place to live: restaurants, schools, retail businesses, etc.

Mr. Wood commented he has discovered the communities in Yadkin County are very competitive which we could use to our advantage.

Chairman Wooten stated we would need to get the Chamber on board.

Commissioner Swaim stated he does not want to be negative, but with the upcoming election, there could be three new board members with different priorities.

Chairman Wooten stated we should continue planning for the schools and water and hopefully those that follow will continue to move the county forward.

Chairman Wooten commented most departments have out grown their areas.

Chairman Wooten asked the Board what they thought about a bond for water and schools?

Commissioner Phillips replied what if the bond fails; the only other way to generate the money would be to raise taxes. She commented this Board was put into this office to make decisions for this county.

Commissioner Swaim commented he does not think a bond would pass for water, but the citizens would be favorable for the schools.

The Board discussed the bond.

Mr. Wood stated the county does not have enough credit to do a \$40 million bond.

Commissioner Sneed stated getting water and sewer to I-77/Hwy 21 is a top priority. He commented when the county holds community meetings, the entire Board needs to be present.

Mr. Wood stated the Board needs to determine policies before we meet with the property owners regarding Hwy 21.

Chairman Wooten stated we also need to work on getting commitments from businesses to help fund the cost.

Commissioner Swaim asked how we do move ahead? We can't afford to pay our employees; there is no money. Where do we get the money?

Commissioner Casstevens stated there will be money generated by the lottery to assist the schools, so we can put more dollars towards water and sewer.

Commissioner Phillips discussed bringing David Long, consultant, on Board to help the county move forward. She stated the county should fire Capitol Links and hire a local grant writer. There is money out there; we just need someone who knows our needs.

Chairman Wooten stated the grant writer needed to be someone with good contacts.

Commissioner Phillips stated Davie County has a local grant writer which they pay \$40,000 per year. This person has written grants totaling \$4 million in the past four years.

The Board discussed grant funds.

Commissioner Sneed stated water and sewer is top priority. The county needs short-term and long-term plans. He indicated the Board drug their feet regarding the bullpens and now we are facing higher costs. He discussed jail issues and how it would not be long before someone sues the county over their civil rights being violated.

Mr. Wood asked the reporters to be discreet in reporting on the jail. The county does not need to give any "get rich quick" ideas.

Chairman Wooten stated most departments have needs; they are doing what they can with what they have.

Chairman Wooten stated hiring an outside person would be a good idea and hopefully whatever plans this Board develops, the next Board will continue to move the county forward.

Commissioner Swaim inquired about the Angelou Study.

Mr. Wood stated the study emphasized economic development and it was funded by a grant.

Chairman Wooten asked if David Long could be paid with a grant?

The Board discussed voting machine costs.

The Board discussed costs associated with David Long.

Commissioner Swaim asked what should the Board expect from the plans? Would this be a want list or realistic list? What resources do we use?

Chairman Wooten stated the plans would be realistic and would help move the county forward.

Chairman Wooten discussed some communication issues. He stated the system is working as well as it can, the problems are engineering issues. The system should be left alone as long as it is working.

Mr. Wood passed out an organizational chart. He stated the Board will need to identify the areas they would like David Long to concentrate on.

Commissioner Casstevens stated water/sewer, schools and the image of the county.

Mr. Wood commented the Board needs to consider taking more interest in regional and state meetings; show Yadkin County is interested.

Chairman Wooten suggested the Board meet at 7:30 on Thursday after the Elections' workshop.

Recess

*Commissioner Swaim made the motion to recess the meeting until Thursday, January 12th at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Sneed seconded. The Board voted 5-0.

Melinda Vestal, Clerk to the Board